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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/647,115	08/25/2003	Fujio Akahane	Q77135	9845
23373	7590	01/31/2006		
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			EXAMINER CRANE, DANIEL C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3725	

DATE MAILED: 01/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/647,115	Applicant(s) AKAHANE ET AL.	
	Examiner Daniel C. Crane	Art Unit 3725	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 December 2005.
 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) ☒ Claim(s) 6 and 10 is/are allowed.
 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5, 7-9, 14, 17, 18 and 20 is/are rejected.
 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 11-13, 15 and 19 is/are objected to.
 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/17/2005</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

NEW PRIOR ART

The examiner has become aware of new prior art. Accordingly, the following office action is made of record. Any indication of allowable subject matter in the previous office action is withdrawn as noted herein. It is regretted that the prior art had not been found sooner.

BASIS FOR REJECTIONS

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

- (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.
- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
- (c) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS OVER PRIOR ART

Claims 1-3, 5 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Taliaferro (438,364). See Figures 2-4 where the work F is forged using a first punch B and a second punch E with the second punch being actuated while keeping the first punch at its maximum stroke (Figure 3). Further, the second punch is "kept off the plate member until the molding of the first member is finished" (see Figure 3). Also, see page 1, lines 74-84, where the successive operation is described. As to claim 5, this provision is dependent upon post

operations, which do not affect the performance of the method. Clearly, the molding configuration of the second member by the second punch has the capability of acting as a “positioning member”. Since the first punch B performs a flattening operation and covers a greater extent of the work F, it has a higher “minuteness” than the second punch E because the second punch stretches the work by bending, shears the work and impacts a lesser extent of the work.

Claim 14 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taliaferro (438,364). While Taliaferro does not indicate that the plate material F is of a particular metal material, it is the examiner’s position that the specific metal being used would not distinguish the method steps from the prior art. In this regard, it would have been obvious to the skilled artisan having the benefit of Taliaferro to have manufactured the plate from any metal material, such selection of metal material being dictated by its particular use.

Claims 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by either one of Williamson (2,954,068) or Baldwin (3,650,142). See the Figure in Williamson where the first punch 12 performs a first forging work and while the first punch is at its maximum stroke, the second forging punch 14 or 16 is actuated. The recesses are formed in the plate 25. Baldwin shows a similar operation where the recesses are sequentially formed by first and second forging punches with the first punch 73 maintained at its maximum stroke (see Figures 7 and 8) while the second punch 87 forms recesses in the plate.

INDICATION OF ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 6 and 10 are allowed.

Claims 4, 11-13, 15 and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

WITHDRAWAL OF CLAIMS

Claim 16 is withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made without traverse in the reply filed on February 25, 2005.

PRIOR ART CITED BY EXAMINER

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

RESPONSE BY APPLICANT(S)

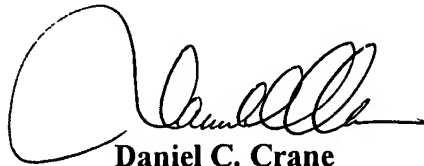
Applicant(s) response to be fully responsive and to provide for a clear record must specifically point out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references, both those references applied in the objections and rejections and those references cited in view of the state of the art in accordance with 37 CFR 1.111 (a), (b) and (c).

INQUIRIES

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner D. Crane whose telephone number is (571) 272-4516. The examiner's office hours are 6:30AM-5:00PM, Tuesday through Friday. The examiner's supervisor, Mr. Derris Banks, can be reached at (571) 272-4419.

Documents related to the instant application may be submitted by facsimile transmission at all times to Fax number (571) 273-8300. Applicant(s) is(are) reminded to clearly mark any transmission as "DRAFT" if it is not to be considered as an official response. The Examiner's Fax number is (571) 273-4516.

DCCrane
January 24, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Crane', with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

Daniel C. Crane
Primary Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 3725